

Relationship between medieval drama and renaissance drama

Medieval drama was preceded by Greek and Roman drama and followed by Elizabethan drama. Greek drama was full of ideas, and was essentially theatrical furnished by the great traditions of the Dionysian and the phallic song. Before Roman drama evolved into medieval drama, there was that element of infamy which entered it and which was vehemently opposed by the church. That was why some critics described it as degenerate theatre and its disappearance during the barbaric invasions of the sixth century was the immediate aftermath of that degeneration.

However, the beginning of medieval drama is, therefore, traceable to the medieval church sermon and mass which had some dramatic characteristics. The human impulse to indulge in mimesis, which received impetus from the religious tropes gave birth to the new form of drama prevalent during the medieval era and thus paved the way to the development of renaissance drama.

Furthermore, renaissance is used to describe a period of great intellectual and artistic achievements. Renaissance is a French word which means "rebirth". It was a period that marked the rediscovery of past heritage, an age which epitomized in the rediscovery of Greek and Roman civilizations. The renaissance age is marked with a number of inventions the invention of printing, the establishment of

universities, and the fall of Constantinople which caused scholars of classical literature to spread all over Europe. The invention of the printing press made it possible for classical literature to be printed and taken to western Europe. The Renaissance age was explosive, diverse, created a host of outrageously different individuals each straining for effect. The word neoclassical was also used to depict the Renaissance Age, especially in France. In short, the renaissance period was a period of the re-examination of life. It was this state of affairs that gave rise to the spirit of humanism which is usually associated with the Renaissance Age.